



Office of the National Ombudsman

Regulatory Fairness Forum for Small Business Tuesday, May 8, 2007 Birmingham, AL

Small business owners have an opportunity to discuss concerns about federal regulatory compliance and enforcement issues during this Forum.

WHO: **SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens** and members of the Regional Regulatory Fairness Board and representatives of Federal regulatory agencies will hold a roundtable with small business owners, representatives of community organizations, trade associations, and business leaders to discuss Federal compliance and enforcement of regulations by Federal agencies. This forum provides the opportunity for the National Ombudsman to be informed of Federal regulatory enforcement concerns impacting America's small businesses.

WHAT: To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, Congress has directed the SBA and the National Ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness Forums across the United States. Concerns and complaints aired at this roundtable will be directed to the appropriate Federal regulatory agency for a high-level review. If any small business, non-profit organization, or small government entity believe they have experienced unfair Federal regulatory enforcement or compliance actions they may submit their comments to our office and at hearings. The National Ombudsman requests that the particular Federal Agency review the specific issues and respond to our office within a specified time period. In many instances the Federal Agency has reduced or waived particular penalties and/or compliance actions. At a minimum, the Agencies review enforcement action to ensure fairness.

WHERE: Alabama Power Company
600 North 18th Street, Room 4-A
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

WHEN: Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 10:00am-12:00pm

To confirm your attendance or for additional information contact Michael Ricks at 205-290-7101 ext. 263, at the Alabama Birmingham District Office or send an e-mail to michael.ricks@sba.gov.

For additional information regarding the Office of the National Ombudsman, visit www.sba.gov/ombudsman, or call José Méndez at (202) 205-6178 or jose.mendez@sba.gov